Name:

# Supporting question 1: Why did Senator Fulbright’s understanding of the Gulf of Tonkin incident change over time?

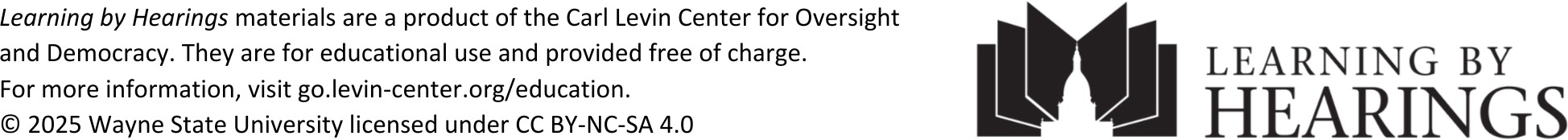
Congress passed the Tonkin Gulf Resolution based on President Johnson’s word and Senator Fulbright’s endorsement. Later, Senator Fulbright felt misled by the Johnson administration.

**Directions**: Watch President Johnson’s Vietnam address from 8/4/64. Refer to your Tonkin Gulf incident map (Source 1A) as you watch.

What are your initial reactions to what President Johnson just said?

With your team, lay out the primary source evidence from your envelope in chronological order and list the order below.

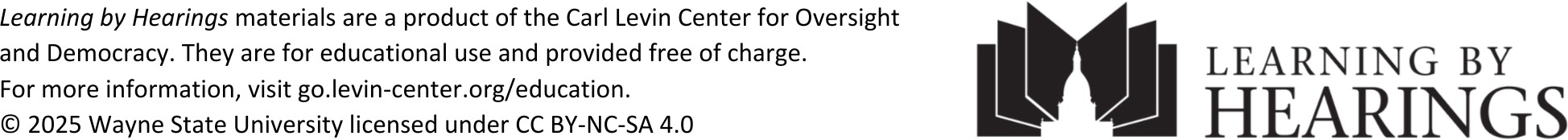
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source Letter** | **Date Published** |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |
| 5. |  |
| 6. |  |
| 7. |  |
| 8. |  |
| 9. |  |
| 10. |  |
| 11. |  |



Next, match each piece of evidence with the claim it best fits. All evidence will be used only once but some claims may have multiple pieces of evidence. As you work, think about whether the evidence suggests the claim in the chart is true, or whether it suggests the claim is misleading. When your group has finished discussing, write the evidence letter in the chart.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Claim**  **(Source 1C: Excerpts from The Tonkin Gulf Resolution, passed by Congress August 7, 1964)** | **Evidence Letter** | |
| **Suggests claim is**  **true** | **Suggests claim is**  **misleading** |
| “To promote the maintenance of international peace and security in southeast  Asia.” |  |  |
| “Whereas naval units of the Communist regime in Vietnam, have deliberately and repeatedly attacked United States naval vessels lawfully present in international waters, and have thereby created a serious threat to  international peace” |  |  |
| “Whereas these attackers are part of deliberate and systematic campaign of aggression that the Communist regime in North Vietnam has been waging against its neighbors and the nations joined with them in the collective  defense of their freedom” |  |  |
| “Whereas the United States is assisting the peoples of southeast Asia to protest (sic) their freedom and has no territorial, military or political ambitions in that area, but desires only that these people should be left in peace to work  out their destinies in their own way” |  |  |

What do you notice about how the evidence seems to change over time?



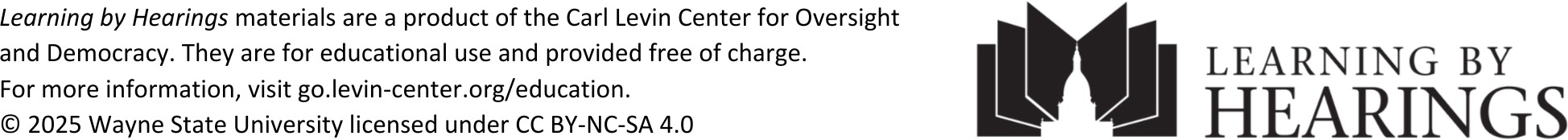
Use these excerpts from the rest of the resolution to answer the following questions.

“The United States regards as vital to its national interest and to world peace the maintenance of international peace and security in southeast Asia. Consonant with the Constitution of the United States and the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with its obligations under the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty...”

“... the United States is, therefore, prepared, as the President determines, to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed force, to assist any member or protocol state of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty requesting assistance in defense of its freedom. This resolution shall expire when the President shall determine that the peace and security of the area is reasonably assured by international conditions created by action of the United Nations or otherwise, except that it may be terminated earlier by concurrent resolution of the Congress.”

1. According to the section above, why is the United States involving itself in Southeast Asia at all?
2. Reread the second paragraph. Do you have any questions or concerns about the way that clause is worded?

Why did Senator Fulbright's understanding of the Gulf of Tonkin incident change over time? Use two quotes from the evidence strips to support your claim.



Name:

# “Who was J. William Fulbright?” comprehension questions

1. Why was Senator Fulbright so personally invested in getting to the bottom of the war in Vietnam?
2. The Gulf of Tonkin incident happened in 1964. Based on what you already know about the domino theory, containment, and American attitudes towards communism, why might Johnson have felt it necessary to get the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution passed quickly?

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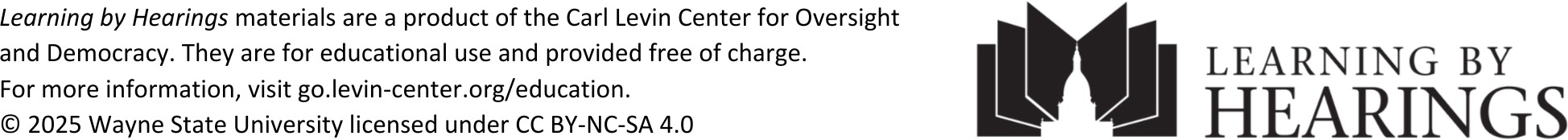
Name:

# Supporting question 2: What did Senator Fulbright’s hearings reveal to the nation?

**Directions:** Each video will be played for you as a whole class. After each video, talk in your teams for two minutes, and create a newspaper headline that captures what you think is the most important or interesting takeaway from what you just saw. Be prepared to share your headline with the class.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Video** | **Headline** |
| Retired General and Ambassador Maxwell Taylor |  |
| Senior US Diplomat George Kennan |  |
| Secretary of State Dean Rusk |  |
| Lt John Kerry |  |

What did Senator Fulbright’s hearings reveal to the nation?

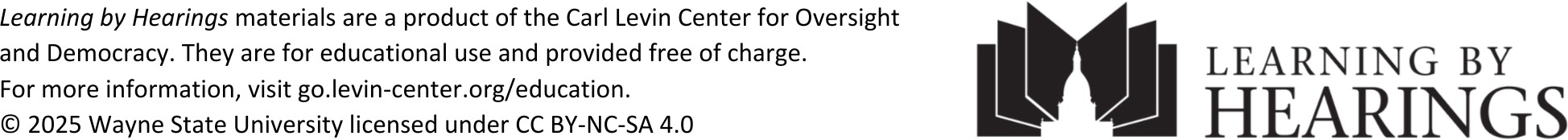


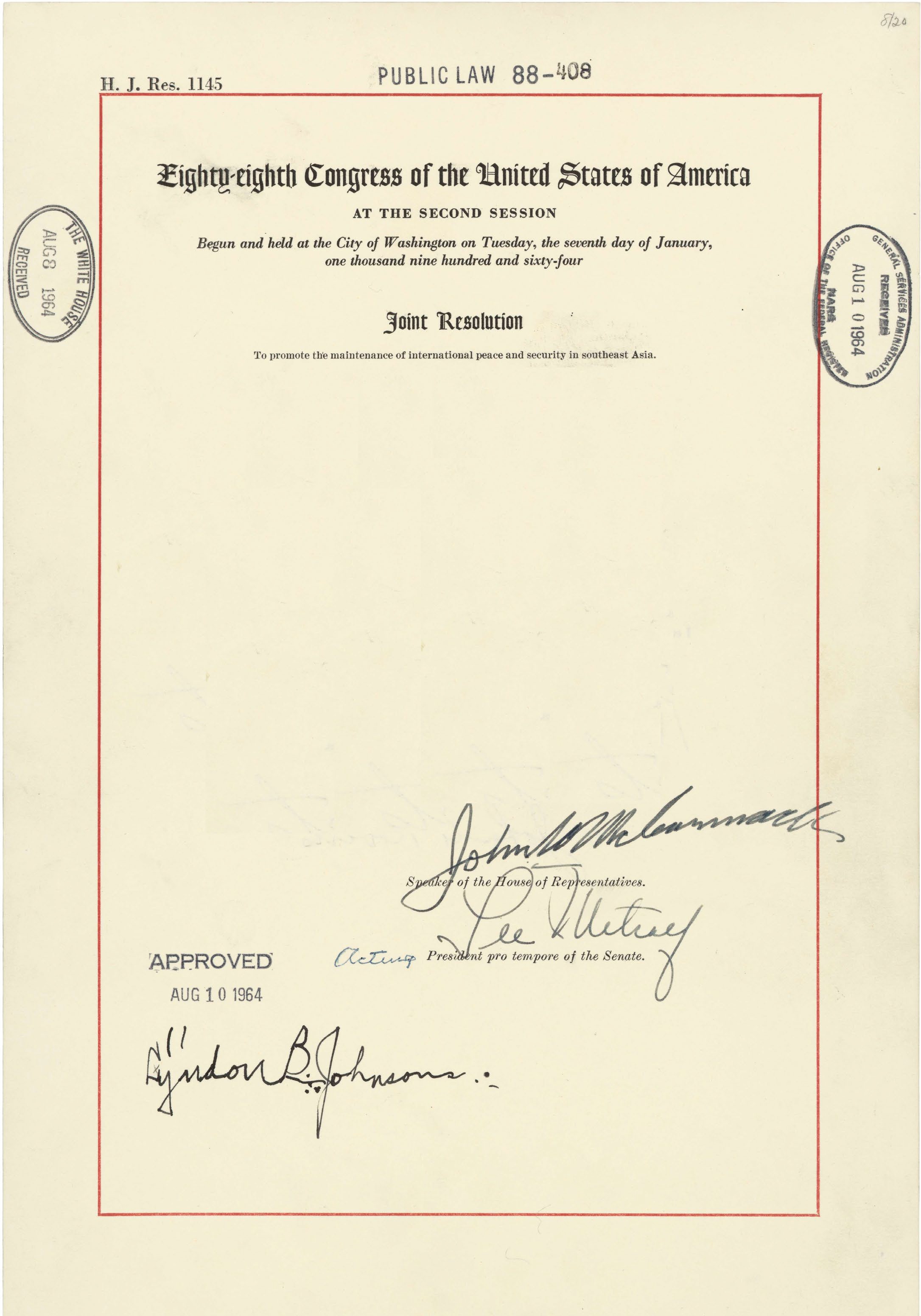
Names:

# Revised Tonkin Gulf Resolution Graphic Organizer

Use the table below to draft your revised Tonkin Gulf Resolution.

|  |
| --- |
| **What happened in the Tonkin Gulf?** |
|  |
| **How did the events in the Tonkin Gulf affect the U.S.?** |
|  |
| **What were U.S. goals in the Vietnam region?** |
|  |
| **What are your team’s recommendations to the President? Do you support his actions? Why or why not?** |
|  |
| **What do you want the U.S. to do? What powers are you giving to the President? When do these powers expire?** |
|  |





Whereas:

Whereas:

Whereas:

*Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

Name:

# Compelling question: How important is it that Congress and the President trust each other?

After you have participated in the gallery walk and voted on a new resolution, answer the following questions individually.

1. How did the new resolution that your team created differ from the original and why?
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# Comprehension Questions

1. When was the Authorization for Use of Military Force that covered the war in Afghanistan and Iraq first passed?
2. What are two similarities between the AUMF and the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution? (cite specific passages from the text in your answer)
3. Having learned about the Gulf of Tonkin and the AUMF, how would you recommend Congress grant authority to a president in the future, if faced with a similar threat or attack?

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